

List of deities in Sanamahism

Sanamahism (Meitei religion) is a polytheistic religion with thousands of deities, gods and goddesses of varying power, quality, features, and character.

The religion originated in the Kingdom of Manipur, and is still practiced in modern Manipur, India, distinct from both the Indosphere and the Sinosphere.

The following is a list of deities, gods, goddesses, demigods, mortals, immortals and a few mythical creatures. This does not include the full list of mythical creatures of ancient Meitei folklore, for which see List of creatures in Meitei folklore.



Symbol of Sanamahism

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Main deities

There are five main deities in the ancient Meitei religion and Meitei mythology, namely:

- Asheeba - He's the Guardian God and the protector of mankind. He is also known as Sanamahi.^[1]
- Apanba - He's the Supreme ruler of the universe and the destroyer of evil. He's also known as Pakhangba.^[2]
- Atingkok - He's the Creator of the Universe. He's also known as Atiya Sidaba.^[3]
- Leimarel Sidabi - Supreme Goddess, mother earth.^[4]
- Imoinu Ahongbi - Goddess of Wealth,^[5] she is also an Incarnation of Goddess Leimarel Sidabi

Among them, Lainingthou Sanamahi, Leimarel Sidabi and Imoinu Ahongbi are the household deities worshipped.

Atingkok

The creator of Universe in Sanamahism is believed to be Lord Atingkok Maru Sidaba, father of Lainingthou Sanamahi and Pakhangba.^[3]

Lainingthou

The term "**Lainingthou**" literally means *King of Gods* or the *Divine King* and it is applied to various deities such as Lainingthou Khoriphaba, Lainingthou Soraren, etc. However, it is generally used to refer Lainingthou Sanamahi.^[1]

Pakhangba

There are several serpent deities in the pantheon. However, the supreme most one is Lord Pakhangba.^[2]

Shayon (incarnations)

Leimarel Sidabi, the supreme goddess has incarnated several times in various divine forms with diverse attributes.

Goddesses	Romanization	Attributes
ᱠᱟᱨᱢᱟᱝᱵᱚᱨ	<u>Imoinu Ahongbi</u> ^[6]	Goddess of wealth and prosperity.
ᱯᱟᱨᱠᱟᱢᱵᱚᱨ	<u>Panthoibi</u> ^[7]	Goddess of war, wisdom and courage.
ᱵᱟᱨᱠᱟᱢᱵᱚᱨ	Phouoibi	Goddess of paddy, harvest and bounty.
ᱠᱟᱨᱢᱟᱝᱵᱚᱨ	<u>Ereima</u>	Goddess of water
ᱠᱟᱨᱢᱟᱝᱵᱚᱨ - ᱠᱟᱨᱢᱟᱝᱵᱚᱨ	Nga Leima or Ngareima	Goddess of fish
ᱠᱟᱨᱢᱟᱝᱵᱚᱨ	Thumleima	Goddess of salt
ᱠᱟᱨᱢᱟᱝᱵᱚᱨ ᱠᱟᱨᱢᱟᱝᱵᱚᱨ	<u>Nongthang Leima</u>	Goddess of charm, music, seduction, thunder and lightning.
ᱠᱟᱨᱢᱟᱝᱵᱚᱨ ᱠᱟᱨᱢᱟᱝᱵᱚᱨ	Pithai Khongdaibi	Goddess of motherhood
ᱠᱟᱨᱢᱟᱝᱵᱚᱨ ᱠᱟᱨᱢᱟᱝᱵᱚᱨ	Hikubi Yaikubi	Goddess of gems.
ᱠᱟᱨᱢᱟᱝᱵᱚᱨ - ᱠᱟᱨᱢᱟᱝᱵᱚᱨ	Silreima or Silleima	Goddess of work and occupation.



Pakhangba, the serpent deity



Pakhangba Temple, Kangla

Related deities

Celestial maidens

In Meitei mythology, there are seven prominent celestial maidens, which are referred to as either goddesses or nymphs.

Lai Nuraa Taret

The seven celestial maidens are considered as seven goddesses or "**Lai Nuraa Taret** ", the creation of the Lord Atingkok Maru Sidaba.

Helloi Taret

The seven celestial maidens are considered as seven nymphs or "**Helloi Taret** ", who are the daughters of the Sky God Soraren. They are then believed to be spinsters.

Apokpa (ancestral deities)

In ancient Meitei religion, the ancestral deities of every families and clans were called Apokpa. They are worshipped by their respective families (Yumnak) and clans (Yek Salai).^[8]

According to T.C. Hodson's book *The Meitheis*, the Meitei people are the only people who have a tradition of worshipping their ancestral deities in Manipur.^[9]

Dragons in Meitei mythology

The following is a list of a few dragons of Meitei mythology:

Dragon Deities	Description
<u>Pakhangba</u>	He's the Great dragon Lord of the universe. ^[2]
<u>Kangla Sha</u>	He's the Protector of the <u>Kangla Palace</u> .
Lord Khamlangba	He's a cousin of Lord Pakhangba.
<u>Salailen Sidaba</u>	He's the Creator of the Universe, father of Lord Pakhangba. He can assume both human as well as dragon figures. ^[3]
<u>Nongshaba</u>	He's a lion like dragon God, cousin of Lord Pakhangba.
<u>Loktak Maru Sidaba</u>	He's the great dragon of the <u>Loktak lake</u> .
<u>Samurou Lakpa</u>	He's a form of Lord Pakhangba.
<u>Chothe Thangwai Pakhangba</u>	Dragon Lord of the ancient <u>Moirang</u> kingdom.
<u>Tangja Leela Pakhangba</u>	The primitive ruler of the <u>Kanglei world</u> .
<u>Nongda Lairel Pakhangba</u>	The great dragon Lord and the ruler of the <u>Kangleipak</u> kingdom.

Planet deities

According to a PuYa "Khenchonglol" (literally meaning, study of Heavenly bodies, Planets, Celestial bodies in the Ningthou Turel or Milky Way Galaxy of the Universe), there are nine Planets which are considered as deities. Even the Sun and the Moon are considered as planets in Meitei Philosophy.^[10] They are as follows:

Deities	Roman equivalent
Nongmaiching	<u>Sun</u>
Ningthoukaba	<u>Moon</u>
Leipakpokpa	<u>Mars</u>
Yumsakeisa	<u>Mercury</u>
Sagolsen	<u>Jupiter</u>
Irai	<u>Venus</u>
Thangja	<u>Saturn</u>
Shakok	<u>Uranus</u>
Shamei	<u>Neptune</u>

Star deities

According to Khenchonglol, there are twenty seven stars which are referred to as deities, out of which the constellation Orion is the most significant.^[10] They are as follows:

- Sajik (Arietis)
- Thaba (Musca)
- Khongjom Nubi (Pleiades)
- Apaknga (Lunar, pauri, masion)
- Sachung Telheiba (A Orionis)
- Likla Saphaba (Orion)
- Chingcharoibi (G Geminorum)
- Chungshennubi (Cancer)

Umang Lai

There are more than 365 forest deities or "Umang Lai" in Sanamahism. They are always associated with a Sacred grove each in Kanglei World. The term *Umang Lai* is also used to refer to the sacred abodes of the deities. Some of the significant ones are:

- Nongshaba - The highest deity associated with Sacred grove or "Umang Lai" in Sanamahism.
- Konthoujam Lairembi gi Khubam
- Ebudhou Khamlangba
- Ima Khunthok Hanbi
- Hiyangthang Lairembi
- Ima Langol Lairembi
- Langol Ningthou
- Thanga Ching Ningthou
- Ipathakok
- Ikop Ningthou
- Laininthou Naothingkhong Pakhangba
- Ima Tamphaton Petangaa

Directional gods

In Meitei religion and mythology, there are ten directions in Meitei philosophy, for which there are ten deities who are the protectors and the guardians of the respective directions.

Deities	Directions
<u>Marjing</u>	<u>North East</u>
<u>Thangjing</u>	<u>South West</u>
<u>Kouburu</u>	<u>North West</u>
<u>Wangbren</u>	<u>South East</u>
<u>Kounu</u>	<u>North</u>
<u>Nongpok Ningthou</u>	<u>East</u>
<u>Lok Ningthou</u>	<u>South</u>
<u>Loya Lakpa</u>	<u>West</u>
<u>Salailen Sidaba</u>	<u>Zenith</u>
<u>Thongalel</u>	<u>Nadir</u>

Local deities

River goddesses

There are various river goddesses worshipped by the followers of Sanamahism. The main rivers associated with these goddesses originated from Manipur.

Some of them are as follows:

- Thongjarok Lairembi of Thongjaorok River
- Iril Lairembi of Iril River
- Imphal Turel Lairembi of Imphal River
- Kongba Turel Lairembi of Kongba River

Lake goddesses

There are various Lake Goddesses worshipped by the followers of Sanamahism, considering the spirits as the guardian and protector of the periphery region of the lake. Some of the deities are:

- Loktak Lairembi of Loktak Lake
- Pumlenpat Lairembi of Pumlenpat Lake

Market goddesses

People worshipped one goddess for each market area considering the spirit of the goddess as the protector, guardian of the region. Some of the goddesses are as follows:

- Pishum Keithel Lairembi of Pishumthong Market Region
- Singjamei Keithel Lairembi of Singjamei Market Region.
- Kongba Keithel Lairembi of Kongba Market Region

Lists in alphabetical order

Here's a lists of the deities in alphabetical order:

A

- Apanba
- Ashiba
- Apanthoibi
- Atiya Kuru Sidaba

C

- Changning Leima
- Cheikhetspi
- Chothe Thangwai Pakhangba

E

- Emoinu
- Engarel Sidaba
- Ereima

F

- Fauoibi

H

- Hikubi Yaikubi
- Hi Leima
- Hiyangthang Lairembi

I

- Imoinu Ahongbi
- Irai Leima
- Ireima

K

- Khamlangba
- Khoriphaba
- Khunthokhanbi
- Konthoujam Lairembi

L

- Lainingthou Sanamahi
- Leimarel Sidabi

M

- Malem Leima
- Mongba Hanba

N

- Ngareima
- Nongda Nongkhal Lembi
- Nongpok Ningthou
- Nongshaba
- Nongthang Leima

O

- Oknarel
- Oksharel Sidaba

P

- Pakhangba
- Phouoibi
- Puthiba

S

- Samurou Lakpa
- Shamadon Ayangba
- Silleima
- Soraren

T

- Tampha Lairembi

U

- Uningthou

W

- Wangbren

Y

- Yaikubi
- Yoibu Noinu Thumleima

See also

- Art and culture of Manipur
- Meitei deities
- Art forms of Manipur
- List of creatures in Meitei folklore
- PuYa
- Sanamahi creation myth

References

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10. "The Manipuri Lais" (http://manipuri.itgo.com/the_lais.html#planet). *manipuri.itgo.com*.

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- *The Meitheis*, by T.C. Hodson, Akansha Publication, Kolkata, 1908

External links

- [Names of God \(http://acmeitei.blogspot.com/2014?m=1\)](http://acmeitei.blogspot.com/2014?m=1)
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